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Message from the Mayor

On Friday, June 24, Governor Enrique Martinez of Coahuila, Governor Jose N. Gonzales-Paras of Nuevo Leon, and Governor Eugenio Hernandez-Flores of Tamaulipas were in our city inaugurating the opening of the new North Eastern Mexico-Texas Partnership (NEMEX~TEX) representative office here in Houston. This new office, headed by Ambassador Francisco Alejo, will serve to promote the Northeastern Mexican states within the scope of continued economic partnership with Houston and the rest of the state.



Mayor Bill White

The new representative office represents a significant achievement in the dynamic economy that we share with Mexico and represents the continued commitment to our major political and economic partner. This auspicious inauguration is one of the many international events that we are proud to share with you in this month's edition of the *International Newsletter*.

Bill White, Mayor

Message from the Director

For years, the Mayor's Office of International Affairs and Development has been training the next generation of leaders in the international arena. We engage students in working with global cities and promoting Houston as a city of diversity, strength, and energy. The internship program established here represents a unique opportunity for the younger generation. As Director, I am thrilled to be able to provide this opportunity to them.



Director Helen T. Chang

"I'd like to thank you very much for all the opportunities I was able to experience as an intern in your office this past semester. I don't even think all I have learned really hit me until after I left and was able to reflect on everything I had done. From getting to meet the premiers of Canada to the Shanghai Gala, the things I experienced and the people I met were phenomenal..."

Ivy Kuperberg, Rice University student (former intern)

Helen T. Chang, Director of International Affairs & Development

June 2005 Highlights



Vietnam War Memorial monument

Unveiling the Vietnam War Memorial Ceremony

With admiration and gratitude, on the morning of June 11, hundreds of community leaders, government representatives, former soldiers and their families gathered at the Universal Center in Southwest Houston to celebrate the unveiling of the Vietnam War Memorial monument. The monument, a project started almost a decade ago by Nguyễn Thế Nghiệp, is a bronze-cast statue of a Vietnamese and an American soldier commemorating their sacrifices in the 11-year civil war that ended 30 year ago.

The ceremony featured speakers U.S. Rep. Al Green, state Rep. Hubert Vo, and City Councilmember Gordon Quan.

In memory of those who gave their lives in the battle, the sky was adorned with hundreds of balloons and the colors of the American and Vietnamese flags.

- By Catherine Wu and Monica Faridi

Did You Know?

The United States, Philippines, Canada, Korea, New Zealand, Australia, and Thailand aided South Vietnam while they fought against the North. Even now, decades after the war has ended, there are still 22, 000 people who are unaccounted for.

Senator John Cornyn: Immigration Reform

On Saturday, June 18, 2005, the Houston World Affairs Council hosted a luncheon featuring U.S. Sen. John Cornyn at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Sen. Cornyn discussed his proposed immigration reform legislation with community leaders. “Our nation’s immigration and border security system is badly broken,” he said. “It leaves our borders unprotected, threatens our national security and makes a mockery of the rule of the law that we preach to the rest of the world.” His primary focus was on the adverse effect these permeable borders have on the national security and the economic health of the country.

Among the key features of this proposed \$5 billion legislation are the addition of 10,000 Border Patrol agents along the borders, a guest worker program, a mandatory employee



Senator John Cornyn

verification system and a proposal that the Justice Department devote an assistant attorney general to immigration law enforcement. The legislation is expected to be introduced in early July by Sen.s John Cornyn (R-Tex) and Jon Kyl (R-AZ). – **By Dharak Bhavsar**

Did You Know?

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn chairs the subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security and Citizenship. He also serves on the Armed Services, Judiciary, Budget, Joint Economic and Small Business and Entrepreneurship Senate Committees.



Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks – Technology Center

Far More than Shopping Paradise – Hong Kong Brings Innovations to Technology Sector

Hong Kong has always been home for those with big dreams. In 2005, this “land of opportunity” is poised at a moment of innovation, and the creation of Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks defines this technology age.

Being called a major financial hub and “shopping paradise” in Asia, Hong Kong has exploded onto the information technology scene and received worldwide attention for its technological achievements. Investing over US\$1.5 billion, Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks is equipped with its brand-new world-class facilities, from high-tech laboratory

systems to competitive training staffs and luxury apartments. On the evening of June 22, 2005, a dinner seminar was hosted at the Westchase Hilton – Houston by Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation to introduce this facility and its promising opportunities in Hong Kong.

The Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks creates an environment where innovative enterprises and professionals can collaborate to build international technology clusters of electronics, biotechnology, precision engineering, IT/telecommunications, and nanotechnology. – **By Anna Valkovich**

Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks website: www.hkstp.org.

China – Houston: Partnership continues to expand

Houston is a city on the move the year round; even during these lazy summer days we receive visitors from all corners of the globe. We are always happy to show our international guests our renowned Texas hospitality.

On June 22, 2005, the Houston Airport System, joined by the Mayor’s Office, hosted an evening event in honor of a 15-member group from China’s Civil Aviation Administration. This group, in Houston on a week-long training program in airport management, is the first of eight groups that will come in the future for training in the civil aviation sector. Joined by Houston City Councilmembers and various other officials of the Houston area, the delegation spent an evening aboard the M/V Sam Houston.

Mr. Suchang Yin, Director of the Ningbo Municipal Government Foreign Affairs Office, visited Houston on June 27 and 28. In addition to touring the Johnson Space Center, Director Yin and his delegation also met with the Mayor’s Office to discuss the possibility of establishing new fields of collaboration, such as a “Sister Chamber-of-Commerce” between the Greater Houston Partnership and the Ningbo Chamber of Commerce.

As Ningbo is China’s second largest port in terms of annual tonnage, it was agreed that further cooperation in the port-management sector should be pursued, especially between two world-class port cities such as Houston and Ningbo. The final point of discussion was on cultural exchange between the two cities in the form of dragon boat racing and Director Yin agreed to work on this unique opportunity with the Texas Dragon Boat Association.

– **By David Chang**

Upcoming Major Events



Map of Rwanda

2nd Annual Rwandan Convention

The Rwandan Convention attracted thousands of visitors to Atlanta last year; and was attended by the nation's leaders and professionals. And, this year the Rwanda Convention Association brought its second Annual Convention to Houston.

The event was held on July 1-3 at the JW Marriott Hotel, supporting the efforts to rebuild Rwandan society after the 1994 genocide and to promote the African-U.S. relationship. This convention was a pan-African event, a

networking opportunity for Rwandan professionals and community leaders, and a chance for the Rwandan community to achieve its goals of initiating a strong link between Houston and Central Africa. For more information about this convention, please visit <http://www.rwandaconvention.org>. – By **Monica Faridi**

Did You Know?

Rwanda's main export is agriculture which accounts for almost 45% of Rwanda's gross national product (GNP); cash crops produced are coffee, tea, and pyrethrum (a natural insecticide).

ExpoTran 2005

Though the beautiful beaches of Panama City entice travelers from all over the world, leaders from Houston will be visiting this Latin-American city for a different reason. To promote Houston's role in Pan-American relations and explore new opportunities for trade within the Panamanian region, the Mayor's Office of International Affairs and Development will be joining a Houston delegation to attend ExpoTran 2005 in Panama City, Republic of Panama, from July 18-20, 2005. The exposition-conference, hosted by the U.S.-Panama Business Council, will focus on multi-modal transportation.



City of Panama

Did You Know?

Despite its small population and area (3.2 million and 30,193 square miles, respectively), Panama is an important center for international trade in the Western Hemisphere as both a major shipping thoroughfare and a regional economic power. Since 1992, an average of 185 million long tons of cargo has passed annually through the Panama Canal. Panama is also a financial and communications hub that sits at the crossroads of five international fiber-optic networks and hosts 110 international banks.

Source: <http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/panama.html>

Containerized cargo flowing through the Panama Canal on the Asia - U.S. Gulf Coast and East Coast route has experienced significant growth during the past few years. With the majority of Panama Canal traffic originating from and traveling to the Gulf Coast and East Coast of the United States, the Panama Canal Authority (ACP) signed a strategic alliance agreement with the Port of Houston Authority in 2003. The alliance has increased cooperation – such as joint marketing and coordination on modernization projects – between the Panama Canal and the Port of Houston Authority. – By **Anna Valkovich**

Fourth Annual Nano Summit

The nano revolution is already taking shape in today's technology. On July 28, the Nanotechnology Foundation of Texas is holding its fourth annual Nano Summit dedicated to researchers and graduate students in Houston. The conference will demonstrate the quality of nanotechnology research being done throughout Texas and will encourage greater collaboration among Texas researchers. Dr. James Heath from Cal Tech and Dr. Ferid Murad from the University of Texas Health Sciences Center will be the opening speakers.

The conference provides a venue for professionals from the nanotechnology research and development field to exchange information including material science, life sciences, and energy/semiconductor applications. – **By Monica Faridi**

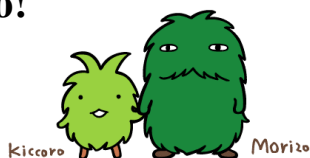
2005 Nano Summit website: <http://www.nanotechfoundation.org/>.

Did You Know?

Nanotechnology is defined as the intersection of electronics, biosciences, and materials. It is a scientific research that is finalized into self-assembling, smart materials with myriad applications and far greater performance potential than existing materials and devices.

Expo, Expo, Expo!

私達を支えなさい!



It's official! In June, 2005, the City of Houston Mayor's Office announced Houston's participation in the "World Expo 2005 Aichi" and will be a part of the Office of the Governor of Texas delegation for this international event.

Business and political leaders from around the world will be among the estimated 15 million visitors to the Expo. Of the 122 country exhibits, "Texas Days," will be held from August 1-3, 2005, at the Expo. The City of Houston Mayor's Office, Port of Houston Authority, Houston Technology Center, Greater Houston Partnership, Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Houston Airport System are working closely with the Consulate General of Japan to promote Houston at the "Texas Days".

In addition to the strong Houston – Chiba Sister City relationship, Governor of Tokyo Takeo Hamauzu's visit to Houston in February reflects the close bilateral ties between the Houston and Japan.

The World Expo is a unique opportunity to expand these ties and showcase Houston as an international city. For more information, please see page 10.

– **By Anna Valkovich**

Did You Know?

Starting in London in 1851, World Expos have traditionally been a large-scale international event, featuring some of the most exciting endeavors in invention, art, and technology - including the telephone in 1876 and the Eiffel Tower in 1889. "Expo 2005 Aichi" is the first World Exposition in the 21st Century in Asia. The next World Expo will be held in Shanghai in 2010.

Meet Our Sister City – Mayor of Tampico

¡Bienvenidos a nuestra ciudad hermana!

Since 2003, Houston has enjoyed a strong Sister City relationship with the city of Tampico, the main city in the state of Tamaulipas, Mexico, and an economic powerhouse. Looking to the South American region for increased activity, the Port of Tampico is providing regular service

routes connecting with the Port of Houston and is seeking opportunities for more intercontinental cooperation.

Did You Know?

Mexican commercial aviation got its start in Tampico. The first flight of Mexicana Airlines took off from Tampico's General Francisco Javier Mina International Airport in 1921. The first bottling plant of Coca Cola in Mexico was also built in Tampico.



El Puente Tampico Bridge connects the Mexican states of Tamaulipas and Veracruz and is a major component of the Gulf of Mexico highway system.

In the effort to further promote trade between Houston and Tampico, Mayor Fernando Azcárraga López of Tampico will visit Houston in July. – **By Anna Valkovich**

“20th Anniversary Gala” Celebrates Chinese Women in International Business

The Global Federation of Chinese Business Women (GFCBW) will host a Celebration Gala on the evening of September 10 at the J.W. Marriot Hotel to commemorate the organization's 20th anniversary. In addition to the 40 delegates, representing the 36 GFCBW chapters worldwide, more than 400 business leaders are expected to attend this annual event.

The Houston chapter of the GFCBW was established in 1985 and has grown to include over 200 successful and influential Chinese women in the business community. The organization seeks to provide networking opportunities to gain insight on today's technologies and information; to improve competitive abilities and business opportunities; and to enable greater support of local charities and activities in Houston. The delegation will also attend the “Global Federation of Chinese Business Women World Conference 2005.”

– **By Anna Valkovich**

Did You Know?

In the feudal Chinese culture, women were expected to be subservient and obedient. To prepare for the arranged marriage, their feet were painfully bound at an early age to prevent them from growing bigger. According to men's taste of those days, women's small feet had aesthetic and erotic meanings - with crippled small feet they were confined to the home. The education women had received aimed at cultivating them to an ideal Confucian woman with the rule: “three follows” - to follow her father; to follow her husband; and to follow her son.

Today, the role and status of Chinese women is characterized by increased opportunities. Women in China today are involved in politics and business and receive the same education as men. In 1999, female workers made up 46.5% of the total work force in China and more than 40,000 are government functionaries.

Source: <http://www.1990institute.org/publications/pubs/ISUPAP8.html>

Meet the Consular Corps in Houston

China

This month, we turn to China to speak with the Honorable Hu Yeshun, Consul General of China in Houston, who discussed the bilateral ties between China and Houston.



The Honorable Hu Yeshun, Consul General of China in Houston

Since 1992, Houston has extended its hand across the world and established various partnerships with cities in China. Today, Houston has a growing Chinese population – nearly 130,000 citizens – and is home to one of the country's biggest Chinese populations. As liaison between one of the largest cities in the United States, Houston, and one of the largest countries in the world, China, Consul General Hu

Yeshun is presented with a challenging task. However, prior to becoming Consul General in Houston, Consul General Hu was a political counselor of the Chinese Embassy in Ottawa, Canada. Having years of diplomatic experience with foreign countries under his belt, Consul General Hu is ready to expand China-Houston relations.

As of June 30, 2005, Houston has more than 100 standing and pending cooperation agreements with China. Consul General Hu believes that the already strong friendship between Houston and cities in China can only continue to grow as the officials from all levels and business leaders visit Houston. "The former president of China and other leaders' visits to Houston demonstrates the strengthening partnership of China and Houston," he said. Since China joined the World Trade Organization in December 2001, Texas exports to China have increased from US\$2.4 billion in 2001 to US\$4.4 billion in 2004. "China has seen economic improvements and Houston has many more Chinese businessmen. While this is good momentum in bonding [China and Houston] together, there is certainly opportunity for future economic collaboration, especially in the areas of petroleum chemicals and the IT/technology."

Consul General Hu's eyes widened with enthusiasm as he talked of the 2008 Olympics being held in China, "This will be an important showcase for China. People all over the world will have a better understanding of China and China will have better communication with other cultures. This will be a positive learning experience for everyone and it will be a historical event."



Map of China

However, the enthusiasm for coming events in China does not end with the Olympics. World Expo 2010 will be held in Shanghai as well. Shanghai, as the financial hub of China, has become "the best platform to display [trading and industrial] ties between countries," said Consul General Hu. The World Expo 2010 is expected to lead China to the international business world, and with Consul General Hu's support, Houston will continue to enjoy the close partnership with cities in China. **-By Monica Faridi**

Did You Know?

The trade volume between China and the U.S. hit a historic high of 126 billion US dollars in 2003. China has become American's third largest trade partner.

International Hub: Houston Committee on Foreign Relations

The Houston Committee on Foreign Relations is an organization dedicated to increasing understanding of world affairs and U.S. foreign policy. Its 165 members are leaders in business, academics, and the professions in Houston. Regular committee meetings, held monthly, are attended by sixty-five to seventy-five members who may be accompanied by guests from outside the Houston area.



*Alan Crain,
Chairman of the
Houston
Committee on
Foreign Relations*

Leadership

Alan Crain serves as the current Chairman of the Committee. He is also the Vice President and General Counsel for Baker Hughes Incorporated, and has over 20 years of experience as an arbitrator involving both domestic and international commercial issues. Mr. Cain has previously served as the Chairman of the Houston World Affairs Council.

History

The Committee was founded in 1937 by former Secretary of Commerce and prominent Houston businessman Jesse Jones and businessman Will Clayton with the assistance of the Council on Foreign Relations. Though the Houston Committee is no longer formally associated with the Council, many Committee members are also active in the Council.

Mission

The mission of the Houston Committee on Foreign Relations is similar to that of the Council: to promote a better understanding of United States trade and foreign policy and international affairs among its members. The Committee accomplishes this goal by disseminating information and promoting constructive

debates and dialogue, and has also hosted speakers such as former Secretary of State James A. Baker III, former Ambassador Roy Huffington, and David Rockefeller. Through such activities, the Council seeks to contribute ideas to U.S. foreign and international economic policy.

Services and Activities

The Houston Committee on Foreign Relations addresses a multifaceted array of issues. The Committee has hosted presentations focusing on bioterrorism, the future of the international economy, international oil production, and traditions in U.S. foreign policy. In April, Committee members attended a presentation by Marshall Legacy Institute President Barry Baltimore on the use of canine teams for the detection of landmines. – **By Anna Valkovich**

Goals of the Houston Committee on Foreign Relations:

1. Add value to public debate on international issues.
2. Energize foreign policy discussions by making the Committee an organization with a widely based membership.
3. Make the Committee the source for ideas and clear and accurate information on key international issues.

International Frontier – Roy Huffington

Every month we focus upon a Houstonian who has made an indelible mark on our city through outstanding contributions and service to the growth of Houston as an international city.



Roy Huffington

Ambassador,
Businessman,
Community
leader... these are the
ABC's of Roy
Huffington. Born in
Tomball, Texas, Mr.
Huffington has long
been associated with
Houston and, over the
years, has been instrumental in the
development of the city that he calls home.

When Mr. Huffington originally came to Houston, he estimates that the population was approximately 285,000 to 300,000 people. In subsequent years, the population has swelled to over 4 million! "I can't believe the changes that have taken place," he remarks. The buildings have grown along with the population – the JPMorganChase Tower and Wells Fargo Plaza have replaced the Esperson and Gulf buildings as the tallest buildings in Houston.

Educated at Southern Methodist University, Mr. Huffington earned his B.S. in Geology. It was then that Prof. Claude Albritton persuaded the young scholar to pursue graduate education, and pursue it he did. A few years later, Roy Huffington earned his Ph.D. from Harvard, also in geology. Mr. Huffington firmly believes that "education leads to opportunity," and this has certainly proven true in his own life.

After serving in World War II, Mr. Huffington embarked on a fascinating career in the oil business. As a well-educated geologist, he found work with the Humble Oil Company. However, over time, he decided to "jump ship" and go into

business himself. Abandoning the U.S. market due to over-regulation at the time, Mr. Huffington's most significant successes occurred in Indonesia and other parts of Southeast Asia. After selling his company in the early 90's, Mr. Huffington served as the U.S. Ambassador to Austria.

Extremely humble, Mr. Huffington describes his overall impact on Houston as "minute and very small." Over the years, he has helped to create thousands of jobs in the city and spurred economic and international development. Now, as he "begins to slow down," he primarily hopes to affect the city through his philanthropic work in the community. While harboring no particular "favorite," Mr. Huffington is particularly proud of the gold medal he recently received from the American Petroleum Institute for outstanding accomplishments in the industry. He was the 50th person to receive the medal; the first was Henry Ford.

Describing Houston as "driving" and "dynamic," Mr. Huffington could not name a place that he would prefer to live in. Among the many things that Mr. Huffington likes about Houston is its "can-do atmosphere" and the fact that it is the "international capital of [the] oil, space, and medical" industries. There is "lots going on in Houston" and one thing is certain, Roy Huffington will continue to lead Houston on the international frontier.

– **By Robert Dahnke**

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**901 Bagby,
City Hall, 4th Floor
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(713) 247-3595**

**Bill White
Mayor**

**Helen T. Chang
MOIAD Director**

**Dion Or
Editor**

**Robert Dahnke
Assistant Editor**

**David Chang
Production Coordinator**

**Please send
articles/comments to
helen.chang@cityofhouston.net
Fax: (713) 247-2100**

**Next Submission Deadline:
July 20, 2005**

Expo 2005 Aichi Registration

Estimate of Costs		
	Business Class	Economy Class
Airline Ticket	\$6,300.00	\$950.00
<i>Hotel</i> (single occupancy)	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00
<i>Hotel</i> (double occupancy)	\$800.00	\$800.00
Local Transportation		
<i>Train</i>	\$240.00	\$240.00
	\$200.00	\$200.00
<u>“Texas Days” Participation Fee (State Requirement)</u>	\$2,000.00***	\$2,000.00***
Total (Single Occupancy):	\$10,340.00	\$4,990.00
Total (Double Occupancy):	\$9,540.00	\$4,190.00
*Please note prices may change.		
**Estimated costs do not cover personal expenses.		

*** “Texas Days” Participation Fee Includes:

- Admittance to Texas hosted Pavilion activities.
- Be apart of the Texas delegation.
- Help invite key companies you work with or are trying to recruit to invite them on your behalf to the Business reception at the Ambassador’s residence on Friday, July 29, 2005 at 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm.
- Take part in the meetings, lunches, tours, and dinners on the itinerary.

Participant Contact Information

Name:
Company:
Address:
City/State/Zip Code:
Phone:
Fax:
Email:

Please return this Registration Form by **Monday, July 11, 2005** to:
 Office of International Affairs & Development
 Mayor’s Office, City of Houston
 Fax: 713-247-2100

For more information please contact: 713-247-3595 or 713-247-3397.

www.houstontx.gov/moiad

July - 2005 Event Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Venue/Contact	
July 2	1:00pm-3:00pm	Asian-American Network Against Abuse of Women: Violence against Women in South Asia, Special Focus on Pakistan	Venue: Contact	G R Brown Convention Centre – Room 306 A-F 713-439-0051
July 3	5:00pm	Sam Houston Race Park: Racing and Fireworks Festivities	Venue: Contact	Sam Houston Race Park 281-807-8700
July 3	7:00pm	NED-Alumni Convention 2005	Venue: Contact	Sheration Suites Hotel NED University of Engineering & Technology
July 4	--	Chevy's Freedom Over Texas Festival	Venue: Contact	Eleanor Tinsley Park 713-555-9753
July 4	--	Fourth of July at Miller Outdoor Theatre	Venue: Contact	Hermann Park 713-224-7575
July 4	--	Holocaust Museum Houston: Unlikely Liberators	Venue: Contact	Holocaust Museum Houston 713-942-8000
July 4	--	U.S. Consulate in Calgary, Alberta: Independence Day Celebrations	Venue: Contact	Calgary 403-444-5224
Showing through July 4	--	Holocaust Museum Houston: The Unlikely Liberators Exhibition	Venue: Contact	Holocaust Museum Houston 713-942-8000
July 6	4:30pm-6:00pm	Port of Houston Authority: Partnership between a prime contractor and a small business owner presentation	Venue: Contact	Port of Houston Executive Building, 1 st Floor 713-670-2400
July 7	6:00pm	Asian Chamber of Commerce: Dinner Investment Seminar, Wealth-Building Strategies	Venue: Contact	Yao Restaurant & Bar 979-776-9441
July 7	7:30pm	Houston Networking News: Rise-N-Shine with HNN	Venue: Contact	Amazon Grill 281-778-6661
July 8	7:30pm	Asia Society Texas: Maya, directed by Digvijay Singh	Venue: Contact	Museum of Fine Arts 713-639-7515
July 13	--	Tianjin Investment Promotion Center Delegation's Visit to Houston	Venue: Contact	-- Helen Chang 713-247-3595
July 13	11:30am-1:00pm	Asian Chamber of Commerce: The Green Design Movement Luncheon	Venue: Contact	Westin Galleria Hotel 713-782-7222

July 14	--	Tianjin Delegation Visits Houston	Venue: -- Contact: Helen Chang 713-247-3595
July 14	11:30am-1:30pm	Greater Houston Partnership: In Honoring Consul General of India	Venue: GHP Contact: 713-844-3662
July 18-20	--	U.S.-Panama Business Council: ExpoTrans 2005	Venue: Panama City, Republic of Panama Contact: 301-986-8803
July 25	--	Bangkok Gems and Jewelry Manufacturers U.S. Tour	Venue: Dallas Contact: prapatip@sbcglobal.net
July 27-Aug 4	--	Office of the Governor: Trip to Japan, Aichi Expo 2005 "Texas Days"	Venue: Japan Contact: Helen Chang 713-247-3595
July 29-July 31	TBD	Houston Networking News Letter: The Ultimate Networking Experience	Venue: Marriott West Loop Hotel Contact: 713-960-0111
July 30	7:00pm	The Sri Lankan American Association of Houston: Concert of Nanda Malini	Venue: Bayou Theater Contact: 281-488-2378



We have one simple goal: to promote Houston as a renowned international city.

The contents are intended for general information purposes only.